

**Testimony of the
Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners
For Information Only
Senate Bill 170
Task Force on Education Funding and Student Population Growth**

January 21, 2026

We would like to thank the sponsor for introducing this legislation. However, there should be a broader view taken. The task force that would be constituted under this bill would:

1. Analyze challenges related to the delay in student enrollment counts and its effect on school funding;
2. Analyze the connection between growing student populations and the provision of school funding; and
3. Make recommendations regarding improvements to the provision of school funding.

While this seems like a simple bill, it is not. The Board would caution any task force from simply looking at enrollment counts, but to also look at the rising costs of education and the amount of funding required to educate students in growing and declining enrollment school districts. The Board would also request that any task force that looks at enrollment also look at how students of poverty, multilingual and special education are properly counted and funded under the current education formulas.

Simply looking at numbers of students does not account for the variety of educational needs that students bring to the school building.

For the foregoing reasons, the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners provides this information to be reviewed and contemplated to be incorporated into the work of the task force to ensure that education funding is adequate.

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